

Application No.: 09/458,602
Filing Date: December 8, 1999

REMARKS

The Applicants thank the Examiner for his continued examination of the present application. By way of summary, Claims 1, 3-4, 6-9, and 11-49 were pending in this application. The Restriction Requirement dated December 8, 2010 required election of one of two groups of claims, Group I including Claims 1, 3-4, 6-9, and 11-36, and Group II including Claims 37-49.

In response, Applicants elect to proceed with the Group II claims, without traverse, and thus have canceled Claims 1, 3-4, 6-9, and 11-36 without prejudice or disclaimer. Additionally, Applicants have amended Claims 37 and 40, and added new dependent Claims 50-68. Thus, Claims 37-68 are pending for consideration.

If there are any remaining issues that may be resolved by telephone, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the number listed below.

No Disclaimers or Disavowals

Although the present communication may include alterations to the application or claims, Applicant is not conceding in this application that previously pending claims are not patentable over the cited references. Rather, any alterations or characterizations are being made to facilitate expeditious prosecution of this application. Applicant reserves the right to pursue at a later date any previously pending or other broader or narrower claims that capture any subject matter supported by the present disclosure, including subject matter found to be specifically disclaimed herein or by any prior prosecution. Accordingly, reviewers of this or any parent, child or related prosecution history shall not reasonably infer that Applicant has made any disclaimers or disavowals of any subject matter supported by the present application.

Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

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